

T  
27  
2

VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 3 • PAGES 97-144 • JULY - SEPTEMBER 1988

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

N.Y. BOTANICAL GARDEN  
LIBRARY  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10458-5126



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

## *Editor & Production Coordinator*

Joyce Reddoch

## *Associate Editor*

Peter Hall

## *Business Manager*

## *& Proofreading Coordinator*

Jim Montgomery

## *Graphics*

Marc Guertin

## *Production Staff*

## **Telephone Coordinator**

Dorothy Greene

## **Proofreaders**

Don Davidson

Yvonne Hunt

Elisabeth Thomson

## **Mailing Team**

Lisa Meyboom

## **Coordinator**

Jennifer Chaundy

Don Davidson

Gwen Jenkins

**Editorial Assistant:** Allan Reddoch

Views expressed in Trail & Landscape are not necessarily those  
of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

## *President*

W.K. (Bill) Gummer

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$20

Family (yearly) \$22

Sustaining (yearly) \$50

Life (one payment) \$500

Subscriptions to Trail & Landscape (libraries and institutions) \$20 per year (Volume)

Single copies of recent issues: \$5.00 each postpaid.

Index to Volumes 1 - 20: \$8.00 + \$2.00 postage and handling.

## **Membership application, correspondence:**

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Box 3264, Postal Station C

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

## **Information:**

(613) 722-3050

*After 10 a.m.*

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE<sup>©</sup>

Published by

**The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club**

Box 3264, Postal Station C

Ottawa K1Y 4J5

Editorial Address:

Joyce M. Reddoch, *Editor*

548 Rivershore Crescent

Gloucester, Ontario K1J 7Y7

## VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

Welcome, New Members	- - - - -	98
OFNC Committee Members	- - - - -	98
The 1988 Soirée	- - - - -	100
Ann and Steve Blight		
1987 Honorary Membership and OFNC Awards	- - -	102
Daniel F. Brunton		
✓ My Back Yard Meadow	- - - - -	107
John Sankey		
Revised Status of Some Local Butterflies	- - -	113
Peter W. Hall and Ross A. Layberry		
Two Colour Forms of Black Swallowtail Pupae	- -	117
Giles R. Morrell		
Tagging Monarchs	- - - - -	118
J.W. (Jack) Holliday		
Activities of the Bird Records Subcommittee		
in 1987	- - - - -	121
Gordon Pringle		
The OFNC Bird Status Line	596-4888 - - -	123
Larry E. Neily		
Winter Bird Sightings	- - - - -	125
Gordon Pringle		
Jack Pines / David Fraser	- - - - -	130
Peregrine Falcon Release Project in Ottawa,		
Summer 1987	- - - - -	131
Jan McDonnell and Hélène Lévesque		
An Early Fall Record of Boreal Owl	- - - - -	137
Christopher Traynor and Bruce M. Di Labio		
A Summer Record of Snowy Owl	- - - - -	138
Bruce M. Di Labio		
Coming Events	- - - - -	140

---

## Welcome, New Members

### Ottawa Area

Shelley L. Ball  
Ingeborg Ballerscheff  
Eric J. Boswell  
Annmarie T. Brown  
Gerald W. Brown & family  
Dr. Adrian Camfield  
John F. Clark  
Charles E. Clifford  
Ralph & Patricia Falcioni  
Lisa J. Fooks & family  
Mary Ellen Forbes  
Leona G. Furlong  
Simon Gawn  
Janet M. Gehr  
Esther J. Grossman  
Lisa J. Guy  
Dorothy A. Hansen  
Jan Kristof  
Roger Lalonde

Andre Lawrence & family  
Nancy C. Leigh-Smith  
Stephen A. & Virginia L.  
Liston  
Derek R. MacLeod  
Marion A. MacPherson  
Odilia Maessen  
Carol J. Martin  
Michael Measures  
Susan J. Phillips  
Mike Polak  
Cathy Ryan & Gareth Thomson  
James S. & Shirley A. Scott  
Phyllis J. Steele  
Keith, June & Graeme  
Stephens  
David Thomson  
Chris Traynor  
Russell Walton & Alison Raaby  
Doreen E. Watler  
Dominique Zybola

### Other Areas

Jane E. Atkinson  
Dorval, Quebec

David Colville  
Annapolis Co, N.S.

April 1987

Eileen Evans,  
Chairman,  
Membership Committee.

---

## OFNC Committee Members

The strength of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club lies in the support and enthusiasm of its volunteers. The following list, prepared by President Bill Gummer, shows the members of each of the Club's committees, as of April 1st. An asterisk (\*) denotes a Committee Chairman, two asterisks (\*\*) an Acting Chairman, and (VP) a Vice-President as Council representative.

**COMPUTER COMMITTEE:** Suzanne Blain\*  
Nicole Defretiere

Daniel Filipovic  
Ken Strang

**AWARDS**

Dan Brunton\*  
(829-7307)  
Enid Frankton  
Bill Gummer  
Peter Hall  
Diana Laubitz  
Mary Stuart

**BIRDS**

Gordon Pringle\*  
(224-0543)  
Tony Beck  
Marg Benson  
Alan Cameron  
Michelle Elder  
Val B. Ladouceur  
Larry Neily  
Daniel Perrier  
Joyce Reddoch  
John Sankey  
Wright Smith  
Ken Strang (VP)  
Art Thompson  
Daniel Toussaint

**BIRD RECORDS  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mike Runtz\*  
(623-6975)  
R. Ross Anderson  
Bob Bracken  
Simon Gawn  
Stephen Gawn  
Bob Gorman  
Val B. Ladouceur  
Gordon Pringle  
(non-voting sec'y)  
Ken Strang (VP)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Eileen Evans\*  
(741-0789)  
Eleanor Bottomley  
Barbara Campbell  
Fran Goodspeed  
Barbara Hurt  
Aileen Mason  
Bette Stern  
Ken Strang (VP)

**CONSERVATION**

Peter Hall\*  
(733-0698)  
Suzanne Blain  
Eleanor Bottomley  
Peter Croal  
Don Cuddy  
Barbara Desrochers  
Shane Jordan  
Geoffrey Katz  
Heidi Klein  
Fern Levine  
Lynda Maltby  
Barbara Martin  
Joyce Reddoch  
Richard Scott  
Ken Strang (VP)  
Roger Taylor  
Ewen Todd  
Jane Topping  
Debbie Walsh  
Mike Walsh

**EDUCATION &  
PUBLICITY**

Barbara Desrochers\*\*  
(224-8396)  
Jeff Harrison (VP)  
Bill Royds  
Ken Taylor  
Susan Wood  
D. Zarski  
Martha Aksim  
Deirdre Furlong  
Doreen Duchesne

**MACOUN**

Barry Bendell\*  
(594-9136)  
Martha Camfield  
Robin Collins  
Maria Darraugh  
Stephen Darbyshire  
Ellaine Dickson  
Paul Hamilton  
Heidi Klein  
Rob Lee  
Mike Walsh  
Ken Strang (VP)

**NOMINATIONS**

Barbara Campbell\*\*  
(839-3418) □

**EXCURSIONS & LECTURES**

Ellaine Dickson\*\*  
(729-1554)  
Robina Bennett  
Marg Benson  
Eileen Evans  
Jeff Harrison (VP)  
Colin Gaskell  
Christine Henri  
Edith Ikeda  
Rick Leavens  
Philip Martin  
Catherine O'Keefe

**EXECUTIVE**

Bill Gummer\*  
(596-1148)  
Jeff Harrison  
Ken Strang  
Roy John  
Frank Valentine  
Barbara Campbell

**FINANCE**

Frank Pope\*  
(829-1281)  
Don Davidson  
Sheelah Demetre  
Jeff Harrison (VP)  
Doug Sample  
Paul Ward  
Ken Young  
  
ex officio:  
Ron Bedford  
Bill Cody  
Frank Valentine

**PUBLICATIONS**

Ron Bedford\*  
(733-8821)  
Dan Brunton  
Paul Catling  
Bill Cody  
Francis Cook  
Bill Gummer  
Jeff Harrison (VP)  
Jim Montgomery  
Liz Morton  
Joyce Reddoch



---

# The 1988 Soirée

Ann and Steve Blight

On Friday, April 29th, the seventh Annual Soirée of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was held at the Unitarian Church Hall. The 150 or so people who attended enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and the evening has to be considered a rousing success. Many thanks to the Excursions and Lectures Committee for its excellent work in organizing the event, a wine and cheese party followed by presentations.

On arrival, we were greeted by the mellow tones of Bill Gummer on piano and John Furlong on clarinet. Shortly after we arrived, the "Song Sparrows" (Heather Bale, Deirdre Furlong, Audrey Furlong, Doreen Powers and Leona Furlong) treated us to a whimsical version of the Twelve Days of Christmas (or the Twelve Hours of Birding?) with lyrics based on the recent Club trip to Presqu'île. (See opposite and Figure 1.) Great work!

After sampling from the fine selection of wines, cheeses and fruit, the members had the opportunity to view the Macoun Club displays. There were two displays entered in the contest this year, with first prize going to the excellent Blue Jay display prepared by Melanie Lussier. The second prize was awarded to Ann Barkley and Tammy Marsden, who put together an interesting display depicting a variety of birds and seals. Special thanks to the Nature Canada Bookstore for donating the prizes for the Macoun Club displays.

The members were treated to an outstanding display of photographs, paintings and drawings done by members of the Club. We also had the difficult job of selecting our favourite photograph from the collection of fine entries in the photo contest. The winner was Cliff Rounding for his stunning picture of a group of Showy Lady's-slippers. Tony Beck's great raccoon picture was chosen as second, and Barry Flahey won third prize for his breathtaking photograph, "Canoe at Sunset". The prize for first place was a print of a Yellow-bellied Marmot, provided by Barry Flahey. Thanks to everyone who entered a photograph in this year's contest.

The rest of the evening was devoted to the award presentations made by Club President Bill Gummer (details on the following pages) and reviews of the Macoun Club's 1987 activities given by Craig Cameron, Emily Pringle and Heather Hunt. It sounds like they had a very active year!

Finally, thanks to Ross Anderson, who did a terrific job as master of ceremonies, and to all the members who turned out and helped make the Soirée a big success! See you next year!

## THE PRESQU'ILE BIRD COUNT

### INTRO

Forty birders went to Presqu'ile  
And saw throughout the day  
Eleven thousand birds in spring array.

On the first hour of our bus trip  
All eyes squin-t-ed to see,  
A brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the second hour of our bus trip  
Our active eyes did see,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the third hour of our bus trip  
All eyes turned to see,  
Three blue jays squawking,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the fourth hour of our bus trip  
Our 'scopes did reveal,  
Four black ducks ducking,  
Three blue jays squawking,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the fifth hour of our bus trip  
Our 'scopes turned to see,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks  
Three blue jays  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the sixth hour of our bus trip  
Our 'scopes again did see,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the seventh hour of our bus trip  
Our leader said, "Come see",  
Seven mallards breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the eighth hour of our bus trip  
Out upon the sea,  
Eight mergansers merging,  
Seven mallards breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five-pied billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the ninth hour of our bus trip  
Again we did see,  
Nine geese a'flying,  
Eight mergansers merging,  
Seven mallard breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the tenth hour of our bus trip  
We all squint-ed to see,  
Ten swallow sweeping,  
Nine geese a'flying  
Eight mergansers merging,  
Seven mallards breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the eleventh hour of our bus trip  
Our weary eyes did see,  
Eleven black-capped chickadees,  
Ten swallows sweeping,  
Nine geese a'flying,  
Eight mergansers merging,  
Seven mallards breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

On the twelfth hour of our bus trip  
Our blood-shot eyes did see,  
Twelve sparrows sparking,  
Eleven black-capped chickadees,  
Ten swallow sweeping,  
Nine geese a flying,  
Eight merganser merging,  
Seven mallards breeding,  
Six golden eyes,  
\* Five pied-billed grebes,  
Four black ducks,  
Three blue jays,  
Two red-tailed hawks,  
And a brown creeper in a big-toothed tree.

### FINALE: LOUD AND S L O W

On the way home from Presqu'ile  
Louise st-a-r-ted this song  
Sooo blame her  
If the count is w r o n g.



Figure 1. "The Song Sparrows" in song.  
Photograph by Tony Beck. ✕

---

## 1987 Honorary Membership and OFNC Awards

Daniel F. Brunton  
Chairman, Awards Committee

Early in 1988, the Council selected a number of individuals to receive Club awards on the recommendation of the Awards Committee. The committee made these recommendations on the basis of nominations from a number of sources: B. Campbell, R. John, M. Gawn, W.J. Cody, C. Gaskell, F. Pope, F. Cook, S. Thomson, R. Taylor and members of the Awards Committee. Our thanks to all involved.

The following provides a brief description of the achievements of the award winners. A more complete citation for each award will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.



## HONORARY MEMBER: Ibra L. Conners

Ibra Conners is one of the longest serving members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (since 1933). He was already known as a meticulous student of mycology when he joined the Central Experimental Farm staff in 1929 as mycology curator and compiler of the annual Plant Disease Survey reports. Conners was instrumental in the establishment of a separate mycological section within the Division of Botany and played a major role in the improvement of its herbarium. From the strength of that collection he prepared his widely acknowledged *Annotated Index of Plant Diseases in Canada* published in 1967.

He joined the Council in 1942, the year he became Treasurer. He remained in that capacity until 1946, producing the Club's first annual budget in the process and presiding over a slowly increasing base of financial security.

In 1947, Conners took on primary responsibility for arranging local sponsorship of the Audubon Screen Tour series. This involved prominent naturalists providing a narration for a film or slide show on a particular natural history theme. They were immensely popular and not only provide excellent programs for thousands of people but generated thousands of dollars for the Club. Due largely to Conners' hard work and organizational skills, more than \$7,000 was accumulated within five years, providing the basis for the sound Members' Equity that the Club now enjoys.

Ibra Conners remained active in the Club for many years until he retired and moved away. At 93, however, he still corresponds with Club members in Ottawa and maintains an interest in Club affairs. His lengthy record of service to the Club and to Canadian natural sciences make Ibra Conners a welcome and worthy addition to our list of distinguished Honorary Members.

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR - Colin Gaskell

Colin Gaskell is a highly respected member of the Excursions and Lectures Committee. He is strong in committee work, active in the field, and a mainstay at Club meetings. Day trips and longer excursions are always thoroughly planned and are carried out with the expertise of this excellent leader. The highly successful trip to Presqu'île Park in April is a typical 1987 example of his leadership and organizational talents.

Colin is a knowledgeable birder and is generous in sharing this knowledge. He has provided valuable assistance to the Macoun Field Club this year in carrying out various field trips for these young people. It is a pleasure to recognize Colin's valuable contributions to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club by naming him Member of the Year.



*MEMBER OF THE YEAR:  
Colin Gaskell*



*CONSERVATION AWARD:  
Graham MacNay*



*SERVICE AWARD: Gordon Pringle  
Photographs by Tony Beck.*



*ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY  
AWARD: Jack Holliday*



*PRESIDENT'S PRIZE  
Dianna Thompson*

#### **SERVICE AWARD - Gordon Pringle**

The Birds Committee has looked to Gordon Pringle as something of a pillar over the past five years or so. He has served in many capacities, including Secretary of the Bird Records Subcommittee and Chairman of the Bird Feeder Subcommittee. He played an important role in the team that produced the latest revision to both the annotated checklist and the field list of Ottawa District birds. Gordon has also provided an enthusiastic and energetic second team on the Annual Seedathon fund-raising effort for several years now.

The assistance and support that he has provided to the Birds Committee chairmen has been largely unseen but greatly valued. He now serves in that position himself.

Gordon Pringle has distinguished himself in developing a co-operative spirit amongst others. His quiet, dependable, behind-the-scenes efforts have more than qualified him for the 1987 Service Award.

#### CONSERVATION AWARD - C. Graham MacNay

At one time, when Eastern Bluebirds had almost vanished from this area, Graham MacNay began his project to attract them back by providing suitable houses in appropriate locations. It was a slow process at first, but he finally had his Bluebird Trail - about 70 houses - in the Dunrobin area west of Ottawa. Many were occupied and produced young bluebirds.

Careful records and observations on nesting pairs, numbers of eggs and broods and the total fledged young, form a valuable source of information on bluebird populations and habits along Graham MacNay's trail. As a spinoff, his success has encouraged others in Ontario and Quebec to establish similar bluebird trails. His labours have not only significantly improved the population figures for the Eastern Bluebird in the Ottawa District, but have indirectly enhanced other populations as well.

#### ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY AWARD - Jack Holliday

As anybody who has read some of his articles in *Trail & Landscape* will know, Jack Holliday is one of those rare individuals who has an overriding curiosity for even the most minute natural detail. His pen has captured the activities of such diverse creatures as toads, spiders, weasels, grosbeaks and butterflies. The painstaking observations are passed on in a folksy style that inspires others to follow in his footsteps.

Jack Holliday's field observations and activities, and his writings, make him an appropriate recipient of this award named after one of the Ottawa area's outstanding all-round field naturalists, Anne Hanes.

#### PRESIDENT'S PRIZE - Dianna Thompson

The President's Prize for 1987 is awarded to Dianna Thompson in recognition of her consistently strong efforts as a member of the Education and Publicity Committee. Her work culminated in what the Committee's annual report categorized as "the highlight of the year", the successful participation of the Club in the National Capital Commission's second "Fall Rhapsody", held from September 19 to October 13, 1987.

The Club contribution was a workshop on bird feeders, as in 1986. Its organization and operation included meeting National Capital Commission requirements, recruiting 16 knowledgeable and willing Club members to man the exhibit, and taking part in a CBC radio interview.

For her role, President Bill Gummer was pleased to present Dianna with the third of the modern President's Prizes. ▀

---

# My Back Yard Meadow

John Sankey

For many years, I lived in the middle of an abandoned farm, surrounded by a hundred hectares of ever-changing meadow flow-ers. When circumstances forced a move to a city constructed of 2,4-D-sanitized grass and asphalt, I felt at first bereft. Then, I decided to fight back. I would create a patch of meadow in my back yard!

Now, my yard is not very large, especially since space has to be left for five active children. So, the area set aside is small, not quite 10 square metres. But, the idea works. It's beautiful!

The meadow year starts in March, with snow still deep under the hedge - a sprinkling of brilliant yellow crocus. By the end of May, with the first iris, there is yellow all over, from oxalis, buttercups and yellow clovers. Two weeks later, the white of Bladder Campion and anemone predominates. Then, sprays of White Melilot rise to hang over a carpet of Yellow Trefoil, while a magnifying glass reveals the sculptured elegance of Bugleweed and the precise world of grass flowers. To end the year, there are waves of glorious yellow goldenrods, then mounds of white and blue asters.

With understanding far beyond that of ourselves, nature abhors simplicity. Although 1987 was only the third year for my meadow, I identified 146 different plants there. Some flowers are only a millimetre across. Some hug the ground, others spread a metre up. Some, with fat yellow anthers, delight in the wind. Some live in partnership with tiny hoverflies, some with ants, others with bumblebees. All accept the adversity of nature as well as its bounty, some with stout perennial roots, others with seed that can live for years before germinating.

If you would join me, here are a few guidelines.

Plants are living things. They have neighbours, form communities. No naturalist will knowingly destroy them, whether by overcollection or by competition from alien imports. So, I collect only plants that are growing wild, close to Ottawa, in abundance, in environments where soil moisture, light level and plant community are similar to my back yard patch.

Mostly, I collect ripe seeds (in my shirt pocket), not entire plants. The genetic diversity provided by seeds helps to establish a healthy population. But, an entire plant brings along some of its neighbours. That helps to establish a natural community. If a plant is a perennial, growing in profusion well



away from public walkways, surely digging in moderation has its place. In short, I ensure the survival of plants where they are. And, I try to give the plants I move as good a chance to grow as they would have had they not been disturbed.

Now, I'm not a purist. I often find a colourful patch of iris or daylily close to an old lilac bush. These mark garbage dumps or abandoned gardens of many years ago. Anything that has survived on its own is natural enough for me. I also accept anything that blows in from neighbouring gardens or my bird feeders, or that turns up in cracks in my driveway.

One end of my patch is next to a small pool. Two water lilies, a pot of cattails, some goldfish, and a few jars of water collected from nice-looking cattail-filled ditches, combine to make a fascinatingly rich community of water creatures. But, no mosquitoes - the goldfish eat the larvae. The overflow from rainfall exits through small slits in the pool liner, keeping the adjacent patch of ground moist most of the summer.

The pond is shallow, and the water freezes to the bottom during the winter. So, the water lilies are wrapped in a garbage bag just before freezeup, and kept, dark, wet and frost-free, in the basement. The goldfish get an aquarium and artificial food for a few months. But, everything else looks after itself.

The other end of the patch, marked by a honeysuckle bush (from an old dump), contains all the gravel collected from the property. This is the dry end of the meadow. One edge abuts a cedar hedge, whose dark confines protect some marginal plants. (It hid some so effectively that they were discovered only after they had bloomed!) A crabapple tree and a small cherry tree provide a variety of broken shade to the environment.

In nature, meadows are preserved by fire, low rainfall or low fertility. I simulate fire with my lawnmower, once each year after the frost has killed the last growth. This spreads the seeds around, and buries them in a mulch to survive the winter.

I should note that the odd municipal weed inspector has been known to wave his arm in the general direction of any unmowed area within his jurisdiction and to announce grandly that he has the power to cut it all down at your expense if you don't do it for him. He doesn't! Only a few specific plants are proscribed by the Ontario Weed Control Act. As long as these species are removed once identified, you have a right to your meadow. (In your back yard anyway, where it won't draw the ire of neighbours!)

Here is a list of the plants I was able to identify in my meadow, with the times they bloomed for me.

Week of Bloom										FLOWERS in a BACK YARD MEADOW, 1987	
Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct				Common name	Botanic name
4	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	crocus	Crocus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	narcissus	Narcissus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	cherry	Prunus 'North Star'
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	crabapple	Malus 'Profusion'
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	dandelion	Taraxacum officinale
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	creeping charlie	Glechoma hederacea
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	forget-me-not	Myosotis scorpioides
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	jolly jump-up	Viola kitaibeliana
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	chickweed	Cerastium fontanum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	early fleabane	Erigeron philadelphicus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	iris	Iris
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	honeysuckle	Lonicera tatarica
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	black-seeded clover	Medicago lupulina
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	yellow oxalis	Oxalis stricta
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	bluegrass	Poa pratensis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	silvery cinqfoil	Potentilla argentea
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	buttercup	Ranunculus acris
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	blue-eyed grass	Sisyrinchium angustifolium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	white clover	Trifolium repens
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	chives	Allium schoenoprasum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	anemone	Anemone canadensis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	hawkweed	Hieracium florentinum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	red sorrel	Rumex acetosella
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	bladder campion	Silene vulgaris
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	chickweed baby's breath	Stellaria graminea
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	red fescue	Festuca rubra
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	marsh bedstraw	Galium palustre
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	indian paintbrush	Hieracium aurantiacum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	evening primrose(hor)	Oenothera fruticosa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	potentilla	Potentilla fruticosa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	yellow sedum	Sedum acre
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	yarrow	Achillea millefolium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	heal-all	Prunella vulgaris
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	bristly buttercup	Ranunculus pensylvanicus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	red clover	Trifolium pratense
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	cow vetch	Vicia cracca
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	quackgrass	Agropyron repens
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	daisy fleabane	Erigeron annuus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	yellow geum	Geum aleppicum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	orange daylily	Hemerocallis fulva
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	st.johnswort	Hypericum perforatum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	smooth ryegrass	Lolium perenne
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	birdfoot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	white mililot	Melilotus alba
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	yellow mililot	M. officinalis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	timothy	Phleum pratense
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	english plantain	Plantago lanceolata
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	plantain	P. major
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	rough-fruited cinqfoil	Potentilla recta

Week of Bloom									
Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct			
4	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1		

# FLOWERS in a BACK YARD MEADOW, 1987

										Common name	Botanic name
			xxxxxxx							white mustard	Berteroa incana
			x xxx	xxxxxx						bugloss	Echium vulgare
			xxxxxxx							strigose fleabane	Erigeron strigosus
			xx	xxx						wormseed mustard	Erysimum hieraciifolium
			xxx							wild barley	Hordeum jubatum
			xxxxxxx	x						bugleweed	Lycopus americanus
			xxxxxxx							smartweed	Polygonum pensylvanicum
			xx xxx							climbing nightshade	Solanum dulcamara
			xxxxxxx							smooth bromegrass	Bromus inermis
			xxxxxxx							willow herb	Epilobium adenocaulon
			xxxxxxx							butter & eggs	Linaria vulgaris
			xxx							awned ryegrass	Lolium multiflorum
			xxxxxxx							lythrum	Lythrum salicaria
			xxxxxxx							small forget-me-not	Myosotis laxa
			xxxxxxx							evening primrose	Oenothera biennis
			xxxxxx	xx						narrow-leaved goldenrod	Solidago graminifolia
			xxx							stokesia	Stokesia laevis
			xx							mullein	Verbascum thapsus
			xx x	x x						wild pink	Dianthus armeria
			xxxx							helleborine	Epipactis helleborine
			xxxx							wild mint	Mentha arvensis
			xx							wild parsnip	Pastinaca sativa
			xxxxxxx							hairy green lantern	Physalis heterophylla
			xxxxxxx							brown-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta
			xxxx	xx						soapwort	Saponaria officinalis
			xxx							early goldenrod	Solidago juncea
			xxxx							tansy	Tanacetum vulgare
			xx							notched hop clover	Trifolium campestre
			xxxxxxx							margaret's everlasting	Anaphalis margaritacea
			xx	xxxx						silvery artemesia	Artemisia vulgaris
			xxxxxxx							canada fleabane	Conyza canadensis
			xx							cosmos	Cosmos bipinnatus
			xxxxxxx							crab grass	Digitaria sanguinalis
			xxxxx							hen grass	Echinocloa crusgalli
			xxxxxxx							hairy galinsoga	Galinsoga ciliata
			xx							pepper grass	Lepidium densiflorum
			xxxxxxx							witch grass	Panicum capillare
			xxxxxx							yellow foxtail	Setaria glauca
			xxxxxx							green foxtail	S. viridis
			xxxxxxx	xxxxxx						wild mustard	Sinapis arvensis
			xx xxx							hop clover	Trifolium aureum
			x	xxxxx						alsike clover	T. hybridum
			xxxxxx							white umbel aster	Aster umbellatus
			xxxxx							prickly lettuce	Lactuca scariola
			xxx							hairy lobelia	Lobelia inflata
			xx							sundrop	Oenothera perennis
			xxxx							sweet william	Silene armeria
			xxxxxx							tall goldenrod	Solidago altissima
			xxx							blue vervain	Verbena hastata

Week of Bloom										FLOWERS in a BACK YARD MEADOW, 1987	
Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct				Common name	Botanic name
4 1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1		
				**						nettle mint	Galeopsis tetrahit
				**						sunflower	Helianthus annuus
				***x						wild lettuce	Lactuca canadensis
				***x						spearmint	Mentha spicata
				***xxxx						pepper smartweed	Polygonum hydropiper
				***x						giant goldenrod	Solidago gigantea
				***xxxxx						wood goldenrod	S. nemoralis
				**xxx						hairy-bracted aster	Aster ciliolatus
				**xxxxxx						lambs quarters	Chenopodium album
				**xxxxx						buckwheat	Fagopyrum esculentum
				**xxxxx						knotroot grass	Muhlenbergia mexicana
				x:xxxx:xxx						mayweed	Anthemis cotula
				x:xxxx:xxx						panicked aster	Aster simplex
				x:x						beggartick	Bidens frondosa
				x:x						slender gerardia	Gerardia tenuifolia
				x:xxxx:xx						sweet everlasting	Gnaphalium obtusifolium
				x:x						motherwort	Leonurus cardiaca
				x:xxxx						field milkwort	Polygala sanguinea
				:xxxx:						green amaranth	Amaranthus retroflexus
				:xxxx:x						side-racemed aster	Aster lateriflorus
				:xxxx:xxx						new-england aster	A. novae-angliae
				:xxx:						stingless nettle	Pilea pumila
				:xxxx:x						erect knotweed	Polygonum achoreum
				:xxxx:xxx						prostrate knotweed	P. aviculare
				:xxxx:x						hedge mustard	Sisymbrium officinale

Plants not seen to flower		Proscribed plants identified (and removed)	
thimbleweed	Anemone virginiana	ragweed	Ambrosia artemisiifolia
bleeding heart	Dicentra spectabilis	great ragweed	A. trifida
field horsetail	†Equisetum arvense	milkweed	Asclepias syriaca
scouring rush	*E. hyemale	winter cress	Barbarea vulgaris
lemon daylily	Hemerocallis flava	canada thistle	Cirsium arvense
purslane	Portulaca oleracea	bull thistle	C. vulgare
silverweed	Potentilla anserina	bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis
slender speedwell	Veronica filiformis	queen anne's lace	Daucus carota
common speedwell	V. officinalis	russian thistle	Salsola pestifer
		hairy sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis
		spiny sow thistle	S. asper
		goatsbeard	Tragopogon dubius
		twisted goatsbeard	T. pratensis

\* sporanges not seen

### Useful References

- Alex, J.F. and C.M. Switzer. 1976. Ontario weeds. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Toronto. 208 pp. (available from Access Ontario, Rideau Centre, Ottawa K1N 9J1. \$5.00.)
- N.L. Britton and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States and Canada. Dover reprint 1970. 3 vol., 2052 pp.
- Gillett, J.M. and D.J. White. 1978. Checklist of vascular plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa. 156 pp.
- Newcomb, L. 1977. Newcomb's wildflower guide. Little, Brown and Company, Toronto. 490 pp. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is presented to encourage readers to think about replacing all that grass with more natural habitats. Further, readers who are interested in helping the Club develop its Wildlife '87 garden can join in the fun by calling the Club number (722-3050) and leaving their names and telephone numbers for Shane Jordan to contact them.

By the way, some of the common names used in the table are John's own; the botanical names are quite correct though.

---

## Read About Pakenham Township's Geological History

Club member Verna Ross McGiffin has documented the geological history of Pakenham Township, Lanark County, making the results of her study available to the public in capsule form in a 15-page booklet entitled *Pakenham Township's Textbook Area Extraordinary*.

The booklet takes the form of a self-guided tour of the township, with nine sites illustrating the changes the land has undergone from Precambrian to modern times. The final sites illustrate the human history of the township.

The booklet is available free of charge from the Council of the Township of Pakenham and from several local outlets.

Sheila C. Thomson



---

# Revised Status of Some Local Butterflies

Peter W. Hall and Ross A. Layberry

In 1982, *Trail & Landscape* carried the *Butterflies of the Ottawa District*, a detailed account of the status of all the butterflies known to have occurred in the District. A distribution map accompanied each species.

Since then, annual updates have been written outlining new information. As a result of these updates, it has become obvious that the status of some species has changed during the last five years. Certain species appear to be more common or more widespread than the records indicated in 1982. On the other hand, some species appear to have diminished in numbers or perhaps have even disappeared from the District.

The following accounts, with updated distribution maps where applicable, document these status changes with explanations where known.

## DION SKIPPER *Euphyes dion* (Edwards)

In 1982, this was considered an extremely rare species known only from one location in the southeast of the Ottawa District. Localized to roadside sedge patches, this large skipper should now be considered uncommon and more widespread on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River. These new records are largely the result of more careful searches of sedge patches throughout the District.

## ROADSIDE SKIPPER *Amblyscirtes vialis* (Edwards)

Considered rare and local five years ago, this tiny, dark skipper appears to have been generally overlooked. In its preferred rocky or sandy habitats, known colonies number 18. This species should now be considered locally uncommon.

## OLYMPIA *Euchloe olympia* (Edwards)

In 1982, this species was known from seven localities following its first arrival in the District in the 1970s. It was felt at the time that the species was likely to continue its expansion into Eastern Ontario. In the last five years, six new colonies have been discovered, including two at locations where it certainly had not existed previously. It seems likely that Olympia numbers will continue to increase.



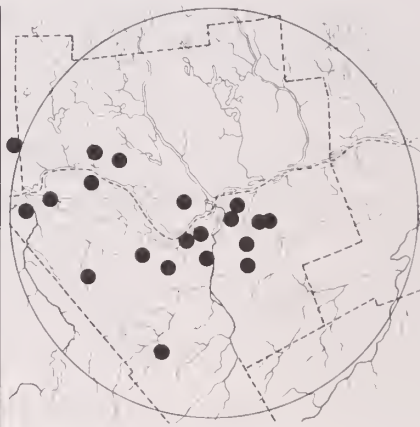
Dion Skipper



Roadside Skipper



Olympia



Henry's Elfin



Appalachian Eyed Brown

HENRY'S ELFIN *Incisalia henrici* (Grote & Robinson)

From a relatively few colonies in 1982, this butterfly has since been found at numerous sites throughout the District, particularly in the southern part. It can often be sighted in wooded areas in early May, being one of the first butterflies on the wing in the spring. It may have been largely overlooked because of this early flight season. It has recently been found to feed on a previously unrecorded foodplant, Black Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*). This shrub may be the most widely used food plant in the District as it often seems to grow commonly where colonies of Henry's Elfin exist.

APPALACHIAN EYED BROWN *Satyroides appalachia leeuwi* (Gatrelle & Arbogast)

Considered rare in 1982, this extremely local butterfly should now be considered locally uncommon. Known from four colonies five years ago, it has now been found at 18 sites. Some of the new records were the result of checking cedar swamps, the preferred habitat, at the right time of the year; others were in mixed deciduous woods in the company of the more numerous Pearly Eye (*Enodia anthedon*). It seems that the habitat separation thought to exist between three closely-related species of Satyrids (*Satyroides euydice* in open sedge marshes, *S. appalachia* in sedgey wood margins, and *E. anthedon* in drier woods) is not as rigid as believed. In the past, any medium-sized, dull brown Satyrid seen in dry woods would have been assumed to be the Pearly Eye.

During the past five years, the species described above were all found to be more numerous than previously thought. However, during this same period, the following species appear to have diminished in numbers.

TWO SPOTTED SKIPPER *Euphyes bimacula* (Grote & Robinson)

This rare species, localized to sedge patches, no longer appears to be resident in its previously-known colonies. Most of these sites were visited during the flight season, in some cases in successive years, but no specimens have been seen in five years. The reason for this decline is unclear as the habitats do not appear to have been altered.

EARLY HAIRSTREAK *Erora laeta* (Edwards)

This elusive rare butterfly has a reputation for fluctuating dramatically in numbers at the few known sites throughout its range. This seems to be the case at the few locations in the Ottawa District where it appeared in the late 1970s and early 1980s after a long absence. Only two single specimens have been recorded in the last three years. The weather may have been a major factor as the flight season in late May has coincided with cool, damp conditions. However, even on warm, sunny days, Early Hairstreaks were not seen.

In general, perhaps the most noteworthy butterfly trend in the past few years has been the decline in numbers of all hairstreak species. All observers had very few records of the five local members of the *Satyrium* genus of hairstreaks. This was true even of those locations where, in early July, hundreds of individuals were often seen around Common Milkweed and White Sweet Clover blossoms. It is hoped, however, that this is only a periodic dieback, perhaps caused by disease, and that we can expect to see the populations bounce back.



*Henry's Elfin*  
Photograph by Peter Hall. ▣

---

## Two Colour Forms of Black Swallowtail Pupae

*The following letter was received by Trail & Landscape a year ago and passed along to the experts for comment. Here is the whole account.*

"Your readers may be interested in the following observations on the Eastern Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*).

'On July 11th, 1986, I watched a female of this species laying eggs on Queen Anne's Lace in a sheltered corner along the Ottawa River near the crossing of the Ottawa - Wakefield railway. I collected four eggs, all of which hatched on July 18th.

'The caterpillars grew rapidly on a diet of Wild Carrot and the first pupated on August 10th. All had pupated by August 12th. At this time I noticed that the chrysalis of the first to pupate was light green while those of the last two were light brown.

'The first butterfly, a female, emerged on August 28th from the light green chrysalis and, in a fit of sentimentality, was released to enjoy a few days of the waning summer. Two of the remaining chrysalids were devoured by the cat and the remaining specimen failed to emerge during the following weeks.

'Almost convinced by the brown colour and dry appearance that the chrysalis was dead, I nevertheless kept it through the winter to be delighted by the eventual emergence of a male on April 16th of this year (1987).

'I find intriguing that caterpillars grown under identical conditions should have chrysalids of different colours and emerge after such disparate periods. I suspect colouration offers superior camouflage to the overwintering chrysalis whereas light green is more advantageous for individuals emerging later the same summer. This dimorphism at the chrysalis stage may derive from differences in feeding behaviour of the caterpillars.

'Perhaps others have noticed this phenomenon and can offer a more detailed explanation.

(signed) Giles R. Morrell"

EDITORS' NOTE: Dr. J.D. Lafontaine, of the Biosystematics Research Centre of Agriculture Canada, when asked about the two colour forms of the swallowtail pupae, said the answer is still only conjecture. The most likely reason is that the two forms would help ensure that some of the pupae will survive predation by birds. If all pupae were only brown, foraging birds would



better learn to recognize them. There appears to be no connection between colour and length of time the butterfly remains as a pupa. ▣

---

## Tagging Monarchs

J.W. (Jack) Holliday

The Xerces Society is an international organization dedicated to the conservation of rare and endangered invertebrates and their habitats. For example, the Society is concerned about the remaining few groves of trees in which the western Monarch butterfly overwinters.

Apparently the population of the Monarch west of the Rocky Mountains winters in suitable groves of trees in California. Some of these groves have been cut down by developers unaware of their special value, or uncaring. The Society is attempting to have California officially recognize the special significance of the roosts.

To support their case, they are accumulating information on the migratory behaviour and ecology of the Monarchs. A number of volunteers began tagging Monarchs several years ago, and, in the last two years, a total of 51,000 have been tagged in the West, 36,000 of those in 1986/87.

A few people started to tag Monarchs in the East in 1986/87, and 300 were tagged. Only one was recovered, a few kilometres from where it was released in New Jersey. Entomologists from the University of Florida and the National University of Mexico spent several weeks at the wintering colonies of Monarchs in the high mountains of Central Mexico. Despite vigilant searching, no tagged Monarchs were seen.

Chris Nagano, currently with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, asked if I was interested in tagging, and when I said I was, sent me a number of tags and information on how to do it.

1986 was a poor year for Monarchs locally, and I managed to tag only 17, none of which were recovered. (In the West, roughly 1 in every 1,500 butterflies tagged was recovered at distances of 150 kilometres or more from its release point).

The 1987 season was much more productive, and I tagged and released an even 100. The first was tagged on July 15, and the last on September 28.

The following is a summary of my own Monarch Project for the Ottawa - Kanata area in the summer and fall of 1987.

**Arrival of the Monarchs:**

The first Monarchs I saw in 1987 were near Bells Corners on June 17. I saw others near Connaught Rifle Range on June 20. According to Ross Layberry's records, this is about the usual date of their arrival here.

**First Generation:**

On June 15 while conducting a Xerces Butterfly Count near the Rifle Range, I observed eight Monarchs. I tagged two males and two females.



*Two tagged Monarchs on Buddleia flowers.  
Photograph by the author.*

I observed one male, flying at tree-top height, catch up to, capture, and come to the ground with a female. By the time I netted them, only 15 seconds later, they were already *in-copula*. There was no attempt to court, just grab and couple. I tagged both, still coupled, and released them on nearby plants, still mated. Both were fresh specimens. Perhaps this generation has no time for niceties and must get on with procreation if the second and/or third generations are to be adult in time to migrate before the cold weather.

### **Second Generation:**

On August 7, in the same area, I saw 12 Monarchs, tagging four. I saw females ovipositing on Common Milkweed and searched thousands of plants but did not find any larvae. None of these butterflies appeared to be migrating.

On August 20, I tagged a female which came to Buddleia plants in my home garden. When released, it flew away to the south. Migrating?

### **Second Generation Migrators:**

Between August 11 and 15, I found five larvae locally. The first of these emerged from the pupa on August 25. After being tagged and released, these butterflies drifted off to the south, apparently beginning migrational flight. (The generations overlap considerably. Seemingly, the early second generation breed and lay eggs for a possible third generation. Late second generation individuals begin the migration.)

### **Third Generation:**

On August 26 I saw two adult Monarchs but was unable to net either.

I searched for 2½ hours in a field of second growth milkweed, found and collected 50 larvae. Within two days, some larvae entered into the pupal stage. The last of them became a pupa on September 2. About 12 died of an unknown disease.

Most of these pupae emerged as adults in mid-September, and between the 14th and 17th I tagged and released 50. The last adults were tagged and released on September 28.

In total, I tagged 100: 67 ex-pupa and 33 netted.

If anyone has seen a Monarch with a numbered white tag on the right forewing, I'd like to know. If you noted the tag number, so much the better. As "launch-master", I would be encouraged if some of the tagged Monarchs were observed to have made some progress and to know where they were seen.

I can be reached at 198 Keyworth Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0E9, telephone 728-8339. ✎

---

# Activities of the Bird Records Subcommittee in 1987

Gordon Pringle

Late in 1987, the Bird Records Subcommittee began to review its collection of photo duplicates. Through the Birds Committee, it has asked Tony Beck to prepare an inventory of the existing material and to assure that it is properly stored with a view toward long-term preservation. When the inventory is complete, we should be able to identify gaps in the coverage and we will be soliciting contributions.

The subcommittee considered 20 reports during the year, and the following were accepted as significant additions to our record base.

Yellow-billed Loon	May 19, 1980 Ian Jones, R.A. Bracken This report was reviewed again in the light of more recently published information on the species.
Common Black-headed Gull	December 21, 1986 Ian Jones Found on the Christmas Bird Count and present until at least January 3, 1987.
Northern Waterthrush	November 30, 1986 Colin Gaskell Late record.
Greater White-fronted Goose	April 17, 1987 Mark Gawn
Willet	May 16, 1987 Roy John
Purple Sandpiper	October 27, 1985 Tony Beck (photograph)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	October 5, 1986 Tony Beck (photograph)
Northern Hawk-Owl	March 8, 1987 Tony Beck (photograph)
Merlin	January 18, 1986 Tony Beck (photograph)
American Wigeon	December 24, 1986 Tony Beck (photograph)
Snowy Owl	June 3, 1987 Ray Holland Report and photograph for an unusual summer record.

Eurasian Wigeon	September 26, 1987	Ray Holland Report and photograph.
Lark Sparrow	July 16, 1987	Ray Holland Report and photograph. Second record for the Ottawa District less than 1 km from the original location at Jim Wickware's on June 13, 1984.
Harlequin Duck	November 28, 1987	Mark Gawn.

The following sightings were reported in 1987, but no documentation has been received by the subcommittee.

Gyr Falcon *	January 11	Britannia
Gyr Falcon *	January 29	Britannia
Gyr Falcon *	Jan. - Feb.	Cedarview Rd. and Woodroffe Ave.
Greater White- fronted Goose *	April 2	Riceville
Little Gull x5	April 27	Ottawa River
Cerulean Warbler	May 15	Britannia Wood
Worm-eating Warbler	May 15	Britannia Wood
Cerulean Warbler	May 17, 22	Low - Poltimore
Franklin's Gull	May 29	Britannia Point
Little Blue Heron	May 21	Airport
Great Egret	May 22	Marlborough Forest
Baird's Sandpiper x2	May 31	Constance Bay This would be a first spring record.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	June 11	Richmond Fen, recorded.
Little Gull	June 14	Deschênes Rapids
Parasitic Jaeger	June 18	Britannia Point
Reeve	July 24	Ottawa Beach

\* requested by the Ontario Records Committee.



Connecticut Warbler	Sept. 6	Britannia Wood
Parasitic Jaeger	Oct. 20	Ottawa River.

The Bird Records Subcommittee solicits reports, photographs or recordings documenting any species not on *A Birder's Checklist of Ottawa*, has fewer than five records, or that has not been sighted for 10 years. Out-of-season observations are also of interest. Report forms are available from Gordon Pringle (224-0543). If you want help in preparing a report, or if you are unsure that a report is needed, contact any member of the subcommittee. ▣

---

## The OFNC Bird Status Line 596-4888

Larry E. Neily

The Bird Status Line is designed to provide bird watching enthusiasts with up-to-date news regarding the birding potential in the vicinity of the national capital. Because a large percentage of its membership is interested in bird life, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club created this service for its members.

Because of its nature, the Bird Status Line is available, of course, to anyone having a telephone, member or not. This allows anyone in the Ottawa area to use it (including visiting birders), or anyone in the world via long distance service. The status line is listed by the American Birding Association on its Rare Bird Alert list in its magazine *Birding*, which has world-wide distribution. Each tape message ends with a reference to the Club telephone number, thus allowing interested non-members a way of becoming involved in the Club.

Each Bird Status Line message (either one or three minutes) begins with the date it was recorded. The message then provides

current information on birds in the Ottawa District\* and frequently on exceptional sightings farther afield which may be of interest to local birders. Information is given on rare and unusual birds in the area and on specialties that are of interest to visitors or new residents. The status line also covers the general status of birds and birding locations in the area, and Club announcements (such as Christmas Bird Count information).

The Bird Status Line often sets out specific directions to rare and unusual sightings, as well as dates, numbers observed, and sometimes behavioural descriptions (if this is felt to be useful in finding the bird in question). No observer names are used on the tape; however, they are available through the reporting line should someone want them.

Messages are updated regularly with information provided by a number of local birders, without whom the service would cease to function. There are no set days for updates, since rare birds can occur anytime and the Bird Status Line attempts to get out the good word as soon as possible. Generally, the message is changed at least twice weekly.

Certain species judged as being sensitive to disruption are not reported on the status line. For example, unusual nesting sightings and some birds of prey, especially in the city itself, where additional pressures may prove fatal to the bird, are not reported.

A log is kept of all tape messages. This provides a reference for writers of the bird sightings articles in *Trail & Landscape*, the Bird Records Subcommittee, and other interested parties. Copies of this log are deposited in the Club's file in the Public Archives of Canada.

Birders are encouraged to help make this service even better by reporting any sightings they feel may be of interest to their fellow birders and by providing updates of more recent sightings of birds already on the tape. Reports may be telephoned into the Bird Status Line at 820-0013. Currently, the status line receives an estimated 250 calls a week.

The Bird Status Line number is 596-4888.

\* The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower. ▢

---

# Winter Bird Sightings

Gordon Pringle

*December - February Period*



The past winter season was steady without sustained extremes of weather. We experienced sun for 325 hours compared with an average of 297 hours and had a less than average snow-fall. This is not to say that the season had no teeth, for it was a large snowstorm with strong easterlies that produced the female Harlequin Duck in late November, and the Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count was held in miserable conditions of snow, sleet and rain. The beginning of February featured a warm front and the beginning of March was a freeze. The last day of winter was an all time low for the date.

Some characteristic features were the gulls that lingered very late, the numbers of raptors, especially Rough-legged Hawk, that wintered, and the long list of less hardy species that attempted to tough it out. Individual highlights were Tufted Titmouse, Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Harlequin Duck, Boreal Owl and Hawk Owl.

Many in the following group of species have no business staying here into the hard winter, and it is easy to imagine that they are induced to linger by the unexpectedly moderate conditions. The real situation is more likely that the usual crop of injured or disinclined individuals survive longer and in greater numbers to be observed and reported, often after settling in at some feeder. Remember also that summer species which are present in the breeding season in large numbers are statistically more likely to be represented by off-season stragglers.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Wood Duck      | - several wintered successfully on the Rideau,  |
| Egyptian Goose | - for interest, this exotic got through to February 21, when it was captured and removed to a warm barn for the duration, |
| American Coot  | - at Shirley's Bay until Christmas week when it probably fell prey to a Snowy Owl,  |
| Common Snipe   | - Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC,  |

Belted Kingfisher	- Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC,
Northern Flicker	- Carleton Place CBC,
American Robin	- a few stayed throughout as is usual; more perhaps survived than normal,
Brown Thrasher	- Carleton Place CBC,
	- North Gower for three days in January,
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	- Ottawa-Hull CBC, Gatineau,
Ovenbird	- rescued from a cat December 3 and sent to hospital,
Rufous-sided Towhee	- Parkwood Hills, wintered,
Chipping Sparrow	- Carleton Place CBC,
Song Sparrow	- Ottawa-Hull CBC,
	- Pakenham-Arnprior CBC
	- Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC, three birds,
Swamp Sparrow	- Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC, last reported January 31,
White-throated Sparrow	- Pakenham-Arnprior CBC,
	- Alta Vista, January 25,
	- Blossom Park, in February,
White-crowned Sparrow	- Ottawa-Hull CBC,
Red-winged Blackbird	- Ottawa-Hull CBC, four birds,
Eastern Meadowlark	- Pakenham-Arnprior CBC,
	- Wall Road, January 17,
Rusty Blackbird	- Carleton Place CBC,
	- Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC,
Common Grackle	- Ottawa-Hull CBC,
	- Greely in February, possibly wintered,
Brown-headed Cowbird	- Pakenham-Arnprior CBC, three birds,
Northern Oriole	- Winchester Springs in late December.

There is also a group of species that in Ottawa are on the northern limit of their winter range. They tend to be opportunists that will stay in some numbers, conditions permitting. The greater expanses of open water induced gulls to remain exceptionally late. Also, the relatively light snow cover exposed food that held a variety of raptors over and perhaps kept the finches in the open and away from feeders.

**Western Vagrants:** There were no further additions to the batch of western stragglers that were mentioned in the fall *Trail & Landscape*. The Townsend's Solitaire at Bristol, Quebec remained difficult to locate and was last reported on January 22. The female Varied Thrush in Aylmer was more co-operative and came regularly to its feeder until March. The Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler did not reappear after the CBC.

### **Waterfowl:**

On the CBC a male Harlequin Duck was discovered accompanying the original that turned up in November. These birds constitute the fifth and sixth record for Ottawa and the third occasion of the species attempting to winter. They remained in the rapids at the Quebec end of the Champlain bridge until mid-February.

A minimum of three male Barrow's Goldeneye were on the river for the season along with two females and one immature male. This is a continuation of the increase of recent years.

Pied-billed Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Buffle-head and Red-breasted Merganser were on the various CBC tallies, indicating the late trend. Wood Duck and a Northern Pintail wintered successfully on the Rideau at Manotick, while a Lesser Scaup at Shirley's Bay made it at least into early February.

Our Black Duck, Mallard, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser population appeared normal and issued no complaint about the extra company.

### **Raptors:**

The arctic (*tundrius* subspecies) Peregrine Falcon continued to roost on the Coats Building at Tunney's Pasture. It is unlikely that this bird derives from the released population on two counts. Firstly, it is unbanded, and secondly the pale subspecies is not known to be represented in the stock used for the reintroduction program.

There were moderate numbers of Rough-legged Hawk and to a lesser degree Red-tailed Hawk in the traditional open areas to the south, particularly behind the airport and near Navan.

It would appear that at least one each of Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle remained in the area until early February. The Bald Eagle would benefit from increased open water and the Golden Eagle was along the Gatineau escarpment where presumably it was feeding at the winter deer yards.

There were scattered observations of Cooper's Hawk and Northern Goshawk with one of each being found behind the airport along with the collection of other raptors. Sharp-shinned Hawk went unreported except for those on the counts. Are they really a feeder bird, following the trend at everybody's vacant feeders this year?

Apparently no Northern Harrier attempted to stay, and there was no mention of American Kestrel after the December count season. Some surely remained.

A few Merlin were to be found, particularly in suburban areas. One also joined the crowd at the airport.



An adult dark phase Gyrfalcon that was reported from behind the airport was the only mention of this species.

**Grouse, Partridge and Pheasant:** There appeared to be a normal distribution of Gray Partridge at suburban feeders, farm yards, feedlots and in certain fields. There were scattered reports of Ring-necked Pheasant at some feeders and there are a few survivors among the released birds at Britannia. Except for Christmas counts, nobody appeared to put any time into locating Ruffed Grouse.

**Gulls:** The story of the gulls is best given by the Ottawa-Hull count and one observer's follow up -

	CBC <u>Dec.20</u>	<u>Dec.24</u>	<u>Jan.30</u>	<u>Feb.19</u>
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0
Herring Gull	2596	2450	162	3
Glaucous Gull	44	83	7	1
Great Black-backed Gull	510	522	53	0
Iceland Gull	15	17	1	0

It is exceptional to have any gulls after the first week of January. Ring-billed Gulls are obviously more anxious to leave in the fall, yet in the spring they are not shy about returning with the Herring Gulls.

**Owls:** Northern owls put in a good showing in eastern Ontario this season. The two Boreal Owls reported for the fall period were a fair indication of things to come. At least four of these much sought-after owls wintered on Amherst Island, one was found as a road-kill on the Thomas Dolan Parkway in early January, and one chased a flying squirrel from a feeder at Otter Lake, Quebec, on January 15. Considering the strictly nocturnal and secretive habits of this species, the indications are that more individuals wintered or passed through than has been the case for several years. At least two Northern Hawk-Owl were present. The Baseline and Cedarview bird was last reported on February 21, and a second was on Limebank Road from January 31 into March. There were two more on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC, and others were reported from Wakefield and Cornwall. Pembroke was graced with 14 Great Gray Owls this season, but none reached the Ottawa District.

Snowy Owls were regular in their usual haunts just south of the city, and, as usual in a milder season, some Short-eared Owls settled in for the duration - notably at Navan and Wood-lawn. For the same reason, a few Northern Saw-Whet Owls could

be found throughout.

The Billings Bridge Eastern Screech-Owl is still hanging in there, despite building pressure on its habitat. It was observed in all three months.

Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl though assuredly present, went unreported. Long-eared Owl appeared to be absent but again, did anyone really look?

**Woodpeckers:** There were no Three-toed Woodpeckers and only sporadic reports of Black-backed Woodpecker. We have been accustomed to much better than this.

Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers were present in unremarkable numbers.

**Horned Lark:** A few Horned Lark stayed over, notably at the Nepean land-fill site. Migrants returned on schedule in mid-February. I refuse to contemplate that winter may end until this happy event occurs.

**Corvids to Creeper:** Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee and Brown Creeper are one of the groups that provide the meat and potatoes of winter birding. The gravy, however, was a Tufted Titmouse in Navan for Ottawa's second record. It was present from November and remained through February at a feeder.

Other than a Boreal Chickadee on the Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC, the only mention of our boreal corvids was on January 9 from an observer who reported Gray Jays (and Boreal Chickadees) responding to a tape on the Ramsay Lake road. Numerous further attempts to relocate these birds were unsuccessful.

**Kinglet to Mockingbird:** A scattering of Golden-crowned Kinglets on the various counts was normal. It has been customary to have a Northern Mockingbird about, and sure enough one hung about in Parkwood Hills.

**Finches:** The low snow cover left considerable food exposed for the winter, perhaps resulting in a poor feeder season. The cone crop, on the other hand, was not great, and there was no characteristic finch for the year. Most were present, with Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill appearing only sporadically. The exception appears to be Purple Finch with only one report from Alta Vista. Were

they really this scarce? The House Finch expansion continued.

The few substantial flocks of Common Redpoll remained very mobile, and Hoary Redpolls were correspondingly difficult to nail down. Exceptions were one in Blossom Park and one at Albion Road and Regional Road #8 that spent most of the winter with a small flock of Common Redpolls on a weed-covered pile of gravel.

Flocks of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were becoming larger and more widespread at the end, augmented by a gradual influx, presumably from the south, and providing another sign of the season's end.

*Acknowledgements:* The information for this account was derived from the Bird Status Line log kept by Larry Neily, the bird columns in *The Ottawa Citizen* by Elizabeth Le Geyt, the author's notes, and additional data supplied by Bruce Di Labio and Ray Holland. ▢

---

## Jack Pines

Planted in tight ranks with rigorous efficiency  
the Jack Pines stand like bristles on a brush,  
tall, erect, crowded close together,  
naked from the shoulder down,  
and all the same - scarcely a twist or gnarl  
to tell each one apart from hundreds more.  
Standing at attention, waiting for the scythe,  
the regimental dullards of the bush.

But find a patch of flat rock scoured by glaciers,  
where lichens crunch and crumble as you pass.  
There, in the crevices with scraps of moss and fern,  
an independent Jack Pine may take hold  
with no peer pressure knocking him in line.  
Then what a profusion of asymmetry breaks forth -  
boughs every which way, grinning at the sun,  
contorted as an unpruned apple tree,  
humped roots for chipmunks, perches for a hawk,  
and palatial possibilities for squirrels.

True, it may not be as good for business,  
but young pines should be given room to grow.

*David Fraser*

---

# Peregrine Falcon Release Project in Ottawa, Summer 1987

Jan McDonnell  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
Atikokan, Ontario

and H  l  ne L  vesque  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
Ottawa, Ontario

## INTRODUCTION

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) is on the endangered species list of most jurisdictions over North America. Persistent organochlorine pesticides such as DDT have been attributed with causing the Peregrine Falcon to decline nearly to the point of extinction. Now that these chemicals are no longer widely used in North America, many jurisdictions are attempting to re-establish wild Peregrine Falcon breeding populations.

Hacking is one of the methods for Peregrine Falcon releases (Sherrod *et al.* 1982). It involves placing downy, four-week-old chicks into a large, barred, plywood hack box which is located at a site where Peregrines could naturally be found nesting. The birds are fed daily and held until they have grown all their flight feathers, about two weeks, and at that time they are released to the wild. After release, they are still fed daily until they are able to hunt and fend on their own.

During the summer of 1987, a "mass" release of Peregrine Falcons in Ottawa was coordinated jointly by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region. Mass releases are now favoured in Canada, and differ from the old style of releases in that large numbers of birds are released at one site instead of the three or four released formerly (Canadian Wildlife Service 1987). The idea is that releasing large number of birds maximizes the chances of two birds surviving to return and breed in the release area. This was the first year that Peregrines have been released in Ottawa, although for 11 years small annual releases have taken place across the river in Hull, Quebec, until 1986 (Di Labio and Dauphin   1987).

Table 1. Main events of the releases  
(J = July; A = August, Time in hours, Age in days)

	Red Band #	Sex	Date of release (age)	Time to exit hack box	Time for 1st flight	Time for 1st comeback
Farm 1st release	1T6	M	19 J (40)	< 1	5	53-55
	1T7	M	19 J (39)	< 1	12-25	55
	1T8	M	19 J (40)	< 1	3	30
	1T9	M	19 J (40)	< 1	26	55
	3C0	F	19 J (39)	< 1	1.33	58-72
	3C2	F	19 J (40)	< 1	79	79
Museum	2T0	M	22 J (41)	< 2.25	26	3
	3C1	F	22 J (42)	< 2.25	< 29	-
	3C3	F	22 J (42)	< 2.25	< 26	-
	3C4	F	22 J (42)	< 2.25	< 26	-
Farm 2nd release	2T9	M	4A (45)	< 2	< 26	-
	3T0	M	4A (45)	< 2	-	-
	3T1	M	4A (45)	< 2	< 26	-
	4C5	F	4A (45)	< 2	-	-
	4C6	F	4A (46)	< 2	2	56



## MASS RELEASE IN OTTAWA

There were two release sites in Ottawa. One was at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, at Metcalfe and McLeod Streets near downtown Ottawa; four birds were released here in one release. The other site was located on land owned and operated by Agriculture Canada, which we referred to as "the farm". Here, the hack box was located on one of the roofs of the feed mill, the tallest building on the property. Ten birds were released here in two releases. The main events of the releases are summarized in Table 1 opposite.

On July 7 the first group of Peregrines arrived at the Ottawa International Airport from Alberta where most of them had been hatched. The four youngest were placed at the Museum, and the six oldest were placed at the farm. The oldest were placed at the farm because our next batch was arriving on July 21 and, therefore, they would have spent only two weeks in the box before release. The birds at the Museum were fed quail, and the birds at the farm were fed three-week old chicken specially raised for the release by Agriculture Canada.

The release at the Museum was well-publicized beforehand, and there were lots of media and interested bystanders present. This release was on July 22. At Agriculture Canada's request, the release dates at the farm were not disclosed because there is no public access to the area. The first release at the farm was on July 19 and the second was on August 4.

At the first release at the farm, the weather was hot and humid, which caused one female to become grounded for several hours. We kept watch over her until she took off and perched safely on a nearby building. We were worried about the farm cats which we had seen roaming around! At the Museum, one bird bolted out of the box as it was opened, and we spent many anxious minutes until we spotted it on an apartment building, safe and sound. The three other birds at this release did not fly until the second day, and these four birds all quickly became proficient flyers.

One of the most interesting aspects about the releases was how the birds of the second release at the farm interacted with those of the first release. While the younger birds were still in the hack box, the first release birds would often land on the platform in front of the hack box and all birds would scream considerably. After a while, things would calm down, and older and younger birds would roost quietly beside each other on each side of the bars. On release day, the first release birds hung around and "buzzed" the second release birds on their first few tentative flights. The younger birds seemed stimulated by the older birds and tried hard to emulate them. It appeared that they took less time to become proficient at flying.



*Young Peregrine Falcon exercising its wings before its second flight. It was the first bird of the group to fly.*



*This young Peregrine Falcon succeeded in capturing its own prey (a House Sparrow). These photographs were taken at the farm by Tony Beck.*

At all release sites, the falcons were seen regularly for the first two weeks, and after that, although the falcons continued to feed, they were not seen as frequently. The last confirmed sighting of a Peregrine Falcon in the Museum area was late August. One of the females was seen on September 22nd at the Richmond Sewage Lagoon hunting shorebirds (C. Gaskell, personal communication). At the farm, falcons were seen until the end of October. It appears that this site, with its reliable and very abundant food supply (pigeons), continued to attract Peregrines until migration time.

Several mishaps and casualties occurred in the period between the releases and the fall migration which caused the death of seven birds. These range from non-lethal collisions of various kinds to acute disease and electrocution. One death was attributed to the latter cause, and up to two others were suspected although not proven. Extra perches were installed at the farm in an attempt to alleviate this problem. One bird made it to Albany, New York, by the end of October, where it was found with an injured shoulder and died five days later, possibly of hepatitis.

Although this appears as a grim picture, it must be looked at in the context of a 75% normal mortality rate for the Peregrine's first year of life. During this critical period when inexperienced birds learn to fly and hunt, a variety of incidents, fatal or not, unfortunately may occur. Due to an active follow-up in the city as well as the farm site, many problems were recorded and, in some cases, remedied. In fact, this also provided for many sightings and observations of hunting behaviour and feeding.

As the released birds that migrated south get through the winter, their chances for long-term survival become much higher, and we remain optimistic that when they reach maturity around two or three years old, they will mate and attempt to nest in the Ottawa valley area.

#### *Acknowledgements*

This project went well only because of the many people and organizations who helped out, and we would like to express our appreciation to the following. Many volunteers with the Ottawa Field Naturalists helped us watch the Peregrines during the critical time immediately following the releases. Without their help, there would have been at least four government employees with nervous breakdowns! Staff at the National Museum of Natural Sciences provided logistic and security support which was invaluable. Staff at Agriculture Canada also provided logistic and security support and the chicken with which the Peregrines were fed. We thank both organizations for allowing us to release Peregrines there. We also thank staff of our own

organizations for all the time, help and support given. And last but not least, we thank our summer students Ed Heuvel and Marie-Claude Cholette, for their capable hard work.

*Literature Cited*

Canadian Wildlife Service. 1987. Draft national Anatum Peregrine Falcon recovery plan. Unpublished report. 66 pp.

Di Labio, B.M. and C. Dauphiné. 1987. The Peregrine Falcon release program in Hull. *Trail & Landscape* 21(2): 104-110.

Sherrod, S.K., W.R. Heinrick, W.A. Burnham, H. Barclay and T.J. Cade. 1982. Hacking: A method for releasing Peregrine Falcons and other birds of prey. *The Peregrine Fund*. 62 pp. ■

\* \* \*

**FOOTNOTE TO THE PEREGRINE FALCON RELEASE PROJECT IN OTTAWA  
SUMMER 1987**

Close to 20 Club members each took at least one three- to five-hour shift during one of the first three critical days following a release. Sometimes there was a long wait for any activity, but then suddenly it was all worthwhile, as a bird or birds took off and demonstrated the avian mastery of flight. A frustrating hazard of the endeavour was that the Peregrines had an uncanny ability to land where one or sometimes even two of the three numbers and letters of the band were tantalizingly visible but defied complete identification. Needless to say, that made success in identification, one of the objectives for the volunteers, even more satisfying when it occurred.

As Club coordinator of the volunteers for this project, I would like to thank each of those who participated, and the team captains, Colin Gaskell and Paul Martin, in particular.

There may still be room for additional volunteers for some or all of the three releases this summer, the first of which will be approximately the third week of July and the last of which will be approximately the first week in August. No previous experience is required. Phone Marg Benson immediately at 995-1308 (work) or 744-6045 (home).

Marg Benson

---

# An Early Fall Record of Boreal Owl

Christopher Traynor and Bruce M. Di Labio

On September 29th, 1987 on a warm, cloudy day while searching for owls near the Sarsaparilla Trail in the Stony Swamp Conservation Area, Chris Traynor and Peter Dunn located a Boreal Owl. The bird was roosting in a clump of White Cedars approximately 2 1/2 metres from the ground. The owl was unperturbed by its visitors, spending most of its time sleeping. Below the tree, whitewash was visible, indicating the bird had spent the day there.

In the Ottawa District, the Boreal Owl (formerly Richardson's Owl) is regarded as a rare to very rare winter visitor (Lloyd 1944, Pittaway 1969). Only one other September record could be located. This record, a mounted specimen in the A.E. Bourguignon collection (September 26, 1948, Navan), is located at the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Since this observation, an unprecedented 15 Boreal Owls have been observed in Southern Ontario and Quebec and several northeastern states. Closer to Ottawa, three Boreal Owls were banded at Prince Edward Point on October 23, 28 and November 6. One was found on Amherst Island on November 14 (Weir 1987). On November 15, a Boreal Owl was photographed west of Stittsville. It appears that a major southward movement is occurring.

## *Literature Cited*

- Lloyd, H. 1944. The birds of Ottawa, 1944. Canadian Field-Naturalist 58(5): 143-175.
- Pittaway, R. 1969. Birds of the Ottawa region. Trail & Landscape 3(1): 10-15.
- Weir, R. 1987. Autumn season 1987. The Blue Bill 34(4): 91-94. □

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since the writing of this article, additional sightings of Boreal Owls during the winter bore out this statement.

See page 84 of *An Introduction to Owling* in the last issue of *Trail & Landscape* for a photograph of this bird.



---

# A Summer Record of Snowy Owl

Bruce M. Di Labio

In the Ottawa District\*, the Snowy Owl is a winter visitor, sometimes fairly common (Pittaway 1969), and is recorded in large numbers during invasion years. The Snowy Owl arrives as early as mid-October and has on occasion been reported in May. Most birds have gone north by April. For the first time ever, a Snowy Owl attempted to summer in the Ottawa District last year.

The bird was first reported west of Ottawa at the town of Richmond, on June 3rd, 1987. It appeared in good health and was alert. After that initial observation, a Snowy Owl was observed approximately 10 km southeast of Richmond near North Gower. The owl was observed regularly in the vicinity of Highway 16 and Roger Stevens Road sitting on telephone poles, fence posts, buildings and on the ground. On a few occasions, it was nearly hit by cars along Highway 16 as it flew low over the road in pursuit of meadow voles.

Unlike the typical Snowy Owl of winter, this owl became somewhat tame. After a few weeks, it was easily approached as is evident in the photograph. Its flight appeared strong and its plumage was worn, but there were no obvious signs of injury, although it appeared to have several broken primaries (D. F. Brunton personal communication). On the June 24th at 1:30 p.m., the bird was observed sitting on a rock. The temperature was 33°C. Although it appeared to be reacting to the heat (with droopy wings and mouth agape), it still had the energy and strength to fly about.

The bird was last reported during mid-July and was not reported again, its fate unknown.

I would like to thank Dan Brunton for the use of the Snowy Owl photograph.

\* *The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower, Ottawa.*



*The Snowy Owl photographed near North Gower on July 2nd, 1987.*  
Photograph by D.F. Brunton. ▣

# Coming Events

---

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
For further information, call the Club number (722-3050).

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**Registered Bus Trips:** Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa K2A 0P7, **at least ten days in advance.** Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. For further information, call the Club number (722-3050).

**All Outings:** Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool. Insect repellent is generally recommended.

Sunday      FERN IDENTIFICATION TRIP  
10 July      Leader: Bill Arthurs (225-6941)  
1:00 p.m.    Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of  
                 the parking lot.  
                 This will be a general interest botanical walk along  
                 the New York Central right-of-way with a special  
                 emphasis on some of the local species of ferns.

Saturday    GENERAL BOTANY OUTING TO THE MARLBOROUGH FOREST  
16 July      Leader: David White  
9:00 a.m.    Meet: front door of the Neatby Building, Central  
                 Experimental Farm, one block west of the  
                 Irving Place - Maple Drive stoplight on Car-  
                 ling Avenue.  
                 David will lead a full-day outing into the southern  
                 sector of the Marlborough Forest to seek out various  
                 specialized plants. A dry habitat very similar to an  
                 alvar (i.e. an open limestone plain) should contain  
                 some interesting finds.

Sunday        FAMILY OUTING DAY

24 July      Leader: Ellaine Dickson (722-3050 after 10 a.m.)

9:30 a.m.    Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner,  
              Richmond and Assaly Roads.

This outing is designed specifically for parents and their young children of any age. The group will travel to the South March Highlands, just west of the city, for a fun-filled day of nature exploration. Pack a picnic lunch and lots of enthusiasm.

Sunday        BUS EXCURSION: CHAFFEY'S LOCKS

14 August    Leaders: Peter Hall and Roger Taylor

8:00 a.m.    Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling  
              Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.

Cost: \$20.00 (See Bus Registration details.)

This all-day, general interest trip in the Rideau Lakes district is one of the most popular Club outings. The area represents a transition zone where many southern species of plants and animals reach their northern limits. Our time will be spent exploring various hiking trails at the Skycroft Outdoor Centre and the Queen's University Biology Station. There will be an opportunity to swim for those who wish. The charge of \$20.00 will cover the bus fare, use of the Skycroft facilities and the cost of the dinner provided courtesy of the Biology Station. The bus should return to Ottawa by 8 p.m. Please support the Club by taking the bus. If you do go by private car, you must still register for the meal (\$10.00) in advance.

Saturday     GENERAL INSECT WALK

20 August    Leader: Henri Goulet

9:00 a.m.    Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance, Central Ex-  
              perimental Farm, one block west of the Irving  
              Place - Maple Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue.

Participants will visit a local area to examine the wealth of insect inhabitants. There will also be a special emphasis on the resident spider population. Henri Goulet is interested in many facets of natural history and will provide a fascinating and enthusiastic introduction to the entomological environment. This half-day outing will be limited to the first 25 people to register by telephoning the Club number (722-3050). Bring a lunch, magnifying glass and insect repellent (but not too much!).

Sunday OTTAWA BANDING GROUP DEMONSTRATION  
21 August Leader: Janette Dean  
Time to The OBG invites a limited number (15) of Club members  
be de- to assist them and learn about banding techniques  
cided. during the late summer migration period. Register by  
telephoning the Club number (722-3050) at least sev-  
eral days in advance of this outdoor workshop.

Saturday SHOREBIRDS AND WATERFOWL  
27 August Leader: Roy John  
7:00 a.m. Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue.  
The objective of this morning outing will be to  
observe early fall migrants including shorebirds if  
the level of the Ottawa River is not too high.

Sunday FALL BIRD COUNT  
28 August Compiler: Daniel Perrier (746-6716)  
Participate in the annual count of the fall bird  
population within the 50-km radius circle of the  
Ottawa District. For details, telephone the compil-  
er. (See last year's November-December *Trail & Land-*  
*scape* for the results of the 1987 count.)

Date to MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP  
be de- Leader: Jim Ginns  
cided. Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance,  
Wellington Street.  
This outing will be limited to 25 persons. Partici-  
pants must register before September 18th by tele-  
phoning the Club number (722-3050). When a date and  
location have been selected, registrants will be  
notified.

Saturday BIRDING IN THE WEST END  
3 Sept. Leader: Tony Beck  
7:00 a.m. Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue.  
Ducks and shorebirds along the Ottawa River will be  
the anticipated highlights. Waterproof footwear is  
advised.

Sunday EIGHTH ANNUAL SEEDATHON  
11 Sept. Support the OFNC winter bird feeding operations by  
sponsoring a birder on the annual Seedathon. Pledges  
may be sent to: SEEDATHON, The Ottawa Field-Natural-  
ists' Club, Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y  
4J5.



Tuesday      OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
13 Sept.      MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT  
8:00 p.m.      Meet: Salon, National Museum of Natural Sciences,  
                 Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.  
                 Admission: At least one natural history slide or a  
                 50¢ donation to the Alfred Bog Fund.  
                 This popular annual event will provide an excellent  
                 chance to share your favourite natural history slides  
                 and reminiscences of trips, both local and far a-  
                 field, with fellow members. Any number of slides up  
                 to 15 will be welcome, and up to 15 minutes will be  
                 allotted for each presentation. Those bringing the  
                 mandatory one slide need not speak if they do not  
                 wish to do so. Those bringing more than one or two  
                 slides please contact Catherine O'Keefe (745-4441) to  
                 prearrange their presentation.

Wednesday    BIRDING WITH ART  
14 Sept.      Leader: Art Thompson  
8:00 a.m.      Meet: entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration  
                 Plant.  
                 Midweek birding for anyone lucky enough to have the  
                 morning free.

Saturday      FALL BIRDING FROM MORRISBURG TO CORNWALL  
17 Sept.      Leader: Ray Holland (225-9655)  
7:00 a.m.      Participants will visit a number of spots along the  
                 St. Lawrence River, including Nairne Island and the  
                 Cornwall power dam, to observe shorebirds, gulls and  
                 migrating landbirds. Dress warmly, wear waterproof  
                 footwear, and bring a lunch for this all-day outing.  
                 Only a limited number of participants will be accept-  
                 ed. To register and learn further details, telephone  
                 the leader.

Sunday        ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO LAC PHILLIPPE AND  
18 Sept.      GATINEAU PARK  
8:00 a.m.      Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance,  
                 Wellington Street.  
                 Cost: \$8.00 (See Bus Registration details.)  
                 Picnic revellers will have an opportunity to explore  
                 several woodland trails and such nearby locales as  
                 Taylor Lake and Clear Lake. The burgeoning fall co-  
                 lours and the Park's indigenous wildlife should pro-  
                 vide further enticement. This general interest ex-  
                 cursion will return to Ottawa by 4 p.m. Cheddar  
                 cheese, apples and cake will be available to supple-  
                 ment your own picnic lunch.

Saturday WEEDS AND SEEDS  
24 Sept. Leaders: Ross Anderson and Ellaine Dickson  
9:00 a.m. Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance, Central  
Experimental Farm, one block west of the Irving Place  
- Maple Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue.  
A visit to a local area to study weeds and wildflower-  
ers in seed as an aid to identifying them during the  
winter months.

Sunday DUCK WADDLE FOR BEGINNERS  
25 Sept. Leader: George McGee  
8:00 a.m. Meet: entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant.  
An excellent occasion to learn to identify a variety  
of diving and surface-feeding ducks. It is to be  
hoped that participants will see Wood Ducks and Hood-  
ed Mergansers, two of the most beautiful species.  
This is a half-day outing.

Sunday AUTUMN COLOURS BUS TRIP  
2 Oct. Leaders: Aileen Mason and Ellaine Dickson  
9:00 a.m. Meet: front entrance, Supreme Court Building,  
Wellington Street.  
Cost: \$8.00 (See Bus Registration details.)  
Enjoy a scenic ride through the Outaouais region on  
the way to the Forest Educative Centre at Lac-la-  
Blanche. There will be some emphasis on tree identi-  
fication along the trail system. Crisp air, a lei-  
surely pace and the splendour of autumn leaves will  
be the order of the day. The bus will return to Ot-  
tawa by 4 p.m. Bring a lunch and dress warmly.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
11 Oct. SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE VENEZUELAN JUNGLE  
8:00 p.m. Speaker: Monty Brigham  
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural  
Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.  
Long-time Club members Monty Brigham and Roger Foxall  
spent three weeks this past winter in the heart of  
the Venezuelan jungle, primarily to view and record  
on tape the rich birdlife. Experience an extravagan-  
za of nature sounds complemented by magnificent  
slides of the lush tropical vegetation and Monty's  
expert commentary.

LATE NEWS ITEM - ALFRED BOG

Since this issue of Trail & Landscape went to press, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has successfully concluded negotiations with Cobi Foods (the current owners of Hardee Farms Ltd.) on the purchase of their land holdings in the Alfred Bog. This means that about 3800 acres, including some of the most significant core portion of the bog, will be protected. Together with the 250 acres which have already been acquired, more than one third of the bog will be dedicated to conservation purposes when the purchase is completed.

Before the mid-August closing date for the purchase, there are many details, including financial arrangements, to be worked out. Generally it is expected that non-government organizations will have to raise 25% of the total purchase price in order to qualify for the other 75% through government matching fund programs. Thus, close to \$200,000 will have to be raised by groups such as the Nature Conservancy, the FON and the OFNC. The Nature Conservancy will have to borrow the necessary funds in order to complete the purchase in August. Of course, any donations received by mid-August will reduce the amount needed to be borrowed, and repaid.

The next (Oct.-Dec.) issue of T. & L. will contain more details on the purchase and our club's role in raising funds for it. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping out, call the club number (613) 722-3050.



Sunday      ELEVENTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE OTTAWA RIDEAU  
23 Oct.      TRAIL CLUB: GENERAL INTEREST WALK IN THE MARLBOR-  
10:00 a.m.      OUGH FOREST

Meet: parking lot at the corner of Albert and Booth  
Streets.

Participants will ramble along a relatively flat  
portion of the Rideau Trail passing through lovely  
woodlands and open areas. Bring a lunch to enjoy  
around the open fireplace at a designated shelter  
along the route. For further information, call Ei-  
leen Evans (741-0789).

\* \* \*

#### PEMBROKE FESTIVAL OF SWALLOWS

August 6 to 14, 1988

Members of the Pembroke and Area Bird Club invite Ottawa  
Field-Naturalists' Club members to join with them in Pembroke at  
sunset as upwards of 100,000 swallows stage their spectacular  
aerobatic display. The best viewing time starts at 7:45 p.m.  
during the festival period. (For further information and a map,  
read *Trail & Landscape* 19(3): 141-142 (1985).)

Explore the bluebird trails, with over 900 boxes in the  
Pembroke area, and on August 12, 13 and 14 visit the Wildlife  
Art Show and Sale featuring over 50 nationally acclaimed and  
local artists. For further information, telephone Jacques  
Bouvier at (613) 735-0366.

\* \* \*

#### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PEREGRINE FALCON RELEASE PROGRAM

There may still be room for additional volunteers. See  
pages 131 - 136 in this issue for further details, or contact  
Marg Benson immediately at 995-1308 (work) or 744-6045 (home).

\* \* \*

---

DEADLINE: Material intended for the October - December issue  
must be in the Editor's hands before July 1 at the  
latest.



ISSN 0041-0748

T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777  
Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and undeliverable Copies:  
Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont.

K1Y 4J5

Return postage guaranteed

NOA 1A0